

IV. Application

A. Apply What You Learned About Tornadoes.

1. Look at your answers to the questions in sections A and B of Section III. Write a possible explanation for the dramatic decrease in deaths after 1950.

2. Safety plans emphasize going to the basement or interior closet, bathroom, or hall in a permanent structure during a tornado warning. Review the damage descriptions for the vast majority of all tornadoes (F0 to F3) and discuss why it is important to follow safety plans.

3. An F6 rating has never been assigned to a tornado. Why is it unlikely a tornado will ever be given an F6 rating?





- Click "Return" to go to the Tornadoes main page.
- Click "Enrichment"

V. Enrichment Activities

A. You are the Mayor

1. How will your town's emergency management staff prepare if your town is in a tornado watch? What if your town is actually hit by a tornado? List potential duties for each group of emergency personnel:

- Civil defense coordinator
- Storm spotters
- Ambulance drivers
- Fire fighters
- Police
- Sanitation workers

B. You are the Local Civil Defense Coordinator

1. Develop a public awareness plan to inform people what to do during tornado watches and warnings, and after a tornado hits. Include television, newspaper, and radio messages.
2. Develop a plan to make mobile home parks safer. Where should people in mobile homes go when they hear a warning?

C. You are the Principal of a School

1. Design a tornado safety plan for the school. Include the months that are most likely to produce tornadoes. Describe what the students should do when there is a tornado warning.



2. Design a tornado safety plan for sporting events and other outdoor events at your school. Include who will stay aware of watches and warnings during the game/event, where people should go, and how much time might be needed to move everyone to a safe place.



- Click "Forward" to go to the Tornadoes "Enrichment.2" page.

D. You are the Meteorologist



1. Tornadoes are currently assigned ratings based on the damage they do to man-made structures. Engineers and meteorologists worked together to study the amount of wind necessary to do different kinds of damage to buildings yet many tornadoes occur in farm fields, forests, and other similar places and never hit anything man-made. Devise a plan for rating such tornadoes.

E. Local Tornado Data



- Click on the "Storm Events" site.
- Select your state and click on "Continue."

- Change "Begin Date" to "06/01/1995"
- Change "End Date" to "06/30/1995"
- Click on the "List Storms" button on the right side of the screen.



- Count the number of tornadoes for your state for June 1995.

1. How many tornadoes were reported? _____



- Click on the "Location or County" to see a description of each tornado event.





2. What kinds of damage did the tornadoes do?

3. How often were other kinds of weather reported?

- a. Thunderstorm winds, severe thunderstorm winds, microbursts? _____
- b. Flood, flash flood, urban flood? _____
- c. Lightning? _____
- d. Hail? _____
- e. Heat/cold/drought? _____

4. Which type of weather event was most common for your state in June 1995? _____



- Close the "Storm Events" site.
- Click "Return" to go to the Tornadoes main page.

F. Related Web Sites

1. SPC Severe Storm Statistics
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/archive/tornadoes/>
2. National Severe Storms Laboratory
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/>
3. Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/sd/pre0208.pdf>
4. Monthly Totals
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/archive/tornadoes/ustbmy.html>
5. TORNADO! The Oakfield, Wisconsin Case Study
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/oakfield/cs1.htm>
6. VORTEX - Unraveling the Secrets
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/oaastory/>
7. The Tornado Project Online
<http://www.tornadoproject.com>
8. Severe Thunderstorm Climatology
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/hazard/>